

EDGEMERE PARK HISTORIC DISTRICT

Bounded on the North by Northwest 36th Street, the South by
Northwest 30th Street, the East by Robinson Avenue, and the West
by Walker Avenue

Oklahoma City

Oklahoma

Oklahoma

HALS OK-29

OK-29

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN LANDSCAPES SURVEY

National Park Service

U.S. Department of the Interior

1849 C Street NW

Washington, DC 20240-0001

HISTORIC AMERICAN LANDSCAPES SURVEY

EDGEMERE PARK HISTORIC DISTRICT

HALS NO. OK-29

Location: Bounded on the North by N.W. 36th Street, the South by N.W. 30th Street, the East by Robinson Avenue and the West by Walker Avenue, Oklahoma County, Oklahoma.

Lat: 35.50773 Long: -97.51482

Significance: Edgemere Park Historic District is housing development constructed mostly during the 1920s and 1930s. It represents one of the earliest community planning projects in Oklahoma and West of the Mississippi River. Over the years, it has retained much of its original integrity. A few homes were built after 1930, but were built to match the character of the neighborhood. The developer of Edgemere was Leon Levy, who was influenced by the concept of the garden city made popular by Ebenezer Howard's book "Garden Cities of Tomorrow." The development embodies many of the concepts that were included in Oklahoma City's first city plan created by the landscape architecture firm Hare and Hare of Kansas City, Missouri in 1930. The development, however, preceded the city plan by five years. Today, the Edgemere Park Historic District is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is a designated Oklahoma Landmark.

History: Edgemere Park was one of the first planned developments in Oklahoma. It began in the 1920 under the direction of Leon Levy, the primary developer of the site. Construction stretched into the 1930s, with a few homes built in the 1940s. The Edgemere Park Historic District consists of over 300 single family homes situated across 103 acres of gently rolling hills that is traversed by a tributary to Deep Fork Creek. Most of the homes are of the Tudor Revival style, while other dominate styles include Colonial Revival and Spanish Eclectic. The homes are brick, stone, or stucco. Twenty of the 103 acres were designated for open space, parks, and a green belt. The areas along the tributary are wooded and stretch through the middle of the development and are home to Edgemere Park, the central location for recreation and leisure in the site. The site's design was influenced by the concept of the garden city derived from Sir Raymond Unwin's book "Nothing Gained By Overcrowding," Ebenezer Howard's book "Garden Cities of Tomorrow," and Clarence S. Stein's "Toward New Towns For America."

During its history, the development has been home to many notable Oklahoma City citizens including mayors, civic leaders, politicians, businessmen, and oilmen. Much of the development's character and integrity has been retained over the years. It has been governed by a home owners association since 1943. The current association, Edgemere Park Preservation, Inc. replaced the original

association in 1977. Edgemere Park was the third Oklahoma City neighborhood to be a designation Historic Preservation District.

Sources: "Edgemere Park," Edgemere Park Preservation, Inc., <http://edgemerepark.org/> (accessed November 07, 2009).

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form: Edgemere Park Historic District, <http://www.ocgi.okstate.edu/shpo/nhrpdfs/80003283.pdf> (accessed October 24, 2009).

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Edgemere Park Historic District (Edgemere Park Preservation, Inc.:
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